

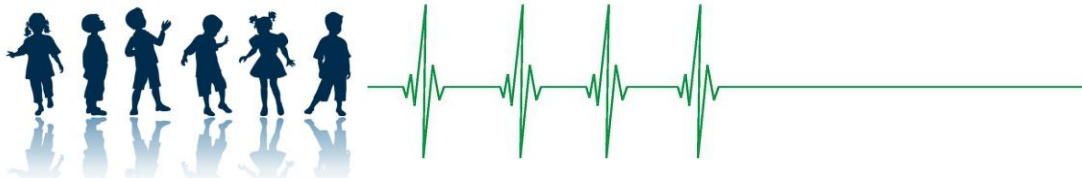
Democrats' Health Care Reform Protects Americans While Republicans Search for Answers


Last week, the U.S. Supreme Court voted to uphold the constitutionality of the Affordable Care Act, but Republicans have vowed to once again attempt to repeal this groundbreaking legislation that has put Americans – not insurance companies – in charge of their own health care. This law strengthens and protects Medicare and preserves the Medicare guarantee for our nation's seniors. Americans have already experienced numerous benefits from the health care reform law, including insurance companies no longer being able to discriminate against children with pre-existing conditions, seniors in the Medicare donut hole paying at least 50 percent less for their brand name drugs, and Americans with private insurance no longer being arbitrarily dropped from their plans when they get sick. When the law is fully implemented, Americans will have access to affordable health care coverage.

Instead of continuing to be the party of 'no,' it is time for Republicans to offer real solutions and alternatives. The Affordable Care Act has been upheld by the Supreme Court, but Republicans have scheduled a vote to repeal health care reform with no alternative to replace it.

Here's a look at how health care reform proposals are helping Americans – while Republicans have no plan at all:


CHILDREN



<u>Democratic Plan</u>	<u>Republican Plan</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Under the Affordable Care Act, children can no longer be denied coverage by insurers because of pre-existing condition.• So far, up to 17 million children have benefitted.	

WOMEN



<u>Democratic Plan</u>	<u>Republican Plan</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Women can no longer be charged for basic preventive care, such as mammograms, cervical cancer screenings, pre-natal care, and breastfeeding support services.• When the Affordable Care Act is fully implemented in 2014, insurance companies will not be able to charge women more than men for the exact same policy.• Additionally, insurance companies can no longer deny coverage based on gender as a pre-existing condition.	

YOUNG ADULTS



<u>Democratic Plan</u>	<u>Republican Plan</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Affordable Care Act has allowed 6.6 million young adults up to age 26 to stay on their parent's health insurance plan. Without health care reform, 3.1 million of these young adults would be uninsured. 	

SENIORS



<u>Democratic Plan</u>	<u>Republican Plan</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 2011, free preventative services were provided to 32.5 million seniors. In 2012, 14 million seniors have received these services so far. More than 5.3 million seniors in the "donut hole" have saved \$3.7 billion on their prescriptions, an average of \$651 per senior. Annual Wellness Visits were provided for free to 2.3 million seniors in 2011. So far in 2012, 1.1 million seniors have already taken advantage of this important service. The Affordable Care Act extended the solvency of the Medicare Trust Fund by 8 years and preserved the guarantee. 	

BUSINESSES



<u>Democratic Plan</u>	<u>Republican Plan</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Small Business Health Care Tax Credit has helped 360,000 small employers afford health insurance for 2 million workers in 2011. Four million small businesses are eligible for this tax credit. The Employee Retirement Reinsurance Program has allowed 2,800 employers to provide health benefits to more than 12 million retirees who are not yet eligible for Medicare. 	

OTHER BENEFITS

<u>Democratic Plan</u>	<u>Republican Plan</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• One or more free preventative services have been received by 54 million Americans in private plans.• Lifetime limits on coverage have been removed for 105 million Americans who would otherwise be facing them.• This bill experienced unprecedented scrutiny and transparency, with more than 100 hours in hearings held on the bill.• The Medical Loss Ratio ensures that insurance companies must spend 80% of premium dollars on health benefits, or must rebate consumers for the difference. Next month, 12.8 million Americans will receive a total of \$1.1 billion in rebate checks.• Fifteen million sick or injured Americans can no longer be dropped from their insurance due to a simple application mistake.• Almost 50,000 Americans with pre-existing conditions are now covered through the new State Pre-Existing Condition Insurance Plans.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Republicans have held zero hearings on a health care reform proposal, and they have not introduced a bill to replace the Affordable Care Act, despite promises to do so. 